

Distinct Part
Title 18 SNF, Title 19 NF, and Title 18 SNF/Title 19 NF

If the institution or institutional complex is participating as a distinct part SNF and/or NF, for a change to be approved, the requested change in bed size must conform to the requirements to be classified as a distinct part. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Operations Manual's Section 2762.B.4 defines Distinct Part:

The term "distinct part" refers to a portion of an institution or institutional complex (e.g., a nursing home or a hospital) that is certified to provide SNF and/or NF services. A distinct part must be physically distinguishable from the larger institution and fiscally separate for cost reporting purposes.

An institution or institutional complex can only be certified with one distinct part SNF and/or one distinct part NF. A hospital-based SNF is by definition a distinct part. Multiple certifications within the same institution or institutional complex are strictly prohibited.

The distinct part must consist of all beds within the designated area. The distinct part can be a wing, separate building, a floor, a hallway, or one side of a corridor. The beds in the certified distinct part area must be physically separate from (that is, not commingled with) the beds of the institution or institutional complex in which it is located. However, the distinct part need not be confined to a single location within the institution or institutional complex's physical plant. It may, for example, consist of several floors or wards in a single building or floors or wards that are located throughout several different buildings within the institutional complex. In each case, however, all residents of the distinct part would have to be located in units that are physically separate from those units housing other patients of the institution or institutional complex.

Where an institution or institutional complex owns and operates a distinct part SNF and/or NF, that distinct part SNF and/or NF is a single distinct part even if it is operated at various locations throughout the institution or institutional complex. The aggregate of the SNF and/or NF locations represents a single distinct part sub provider, not multiple sub providers, and must be assigned a single provider number.